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Qadhafi calls for OAU meet

LONDON, July 26 (R). — Radio Uganda said today that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi wanted an emergency meeting of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Ministerial Council to discuss what he called Egyptian aggression against his country. The radio, monitored here, said Col. Qadhafi disclosed this in a message to Ugandan President Idi Amin. President Amin yesterday asked the Libyan ambassador here for detailed information on what had led the two countries to fight one another. Col. Qadhafi said Egypt had committed a flagrant violation of the OAU charter and that the Libyan Jamahiriyah was being compelled to defend its people and territory.

Saudis promise U.S. not to raise oil prices

BEIRUT, July 26 (R). — The Arab-language magazine Al Mostakbal says Saudi Arabia has promised the United States not to raise its oil prices by more than five per cent annually until 1984. The Paris-based magazine, which reached here today, said that in return the U.S. pledged to give Saudi Arabia political, military and economic support. The weekly, which circulates throughout the Arab World, gave no sources for its story but said the pledges were part of a secret agreement Saudi Arabia had concluded with the previous administration of President Ford. It was later confirmed by President Carter, the magazine added.

Washington angered by Israel's legalisation of W. Bank settlements

WASHINGTON, July 26 (R). — The United States today told Israel that it was deeply disappointed by the decision of Begin's government to give legal recognition to three Israeli settlements on the West Bank.

State Department spokesman Hodding Carter said the Israeli action not only contravened international legal conventions but also constituted an obstacle to the peace-making process.

"We are deeply disappointed by this development," the spokesman said in a department policy statement.

The statement was telephoned this morning to Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz by Mr. Roy Atherton, who is to be Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern affairs.

The swift reaction followed a decision by the Israeli government to legalise three existing settlements on the West Bank: Kafr Qaddum, Ofra and Maale Adumin. The United States understood that the former government had refused to legalise at least one of these settlements, the spokesman said.

In a reference to last week's talks between President Carter and Prime Minister Menachem Begin, the spokesman added:

"We have consistently made clear, including in our recent talks here in Washington, our view that the establishment of settlements on occupied territory is not only contrary to the Fourth Geneva Convention but also constitutes an impediment (to Geneva and the peace process on the Middle East.)"

The strongly-worded disapproval of the Israeli action by a cabinet committee marked the first flare-up in U.S.-Israeli relations since Mr. Begin's visit here.

King leaves for Iran



His Majesty King Hussein is seen off by His Highness Crown Prince Hassan as he left to Tehran Tuesday for a short private visit. He is expected to hold talks with the Shah of Iran on international issues and developments in the Middle East situation and bilateral relations. He is accompanied by Her Highness Princess Basma, Minister of Court Amer Khammash and the Chief Chamberlain, Prince Ra'd Ibn Zeid. (JNA photo).

Lebanese, Palestinian guerrillas start to withdraw from S. Lebanon

SIDON, Lebanon, July 26 (R). — Warring Palestinian and Lebanese guerrillas have begun withdrawing from volatile regions in southern Lebanon, following an agreement aimed at ending fighting in the area.

During a tour of the region today, I saw that Palestinian commandos and their Lebanese leftist allies had abandoned the southern coastal road as far as Nakoura, about 4 kms. from the border with Israel.

Rightist forces had evacuated the village of Alma Al Shaab, about 1 km. from the border, and there were reports of rightist withdrawals from other frontier villages.

The pull-backs went into full swing last night a few hours after agreement was reached on a plan to implement the 1969 Cairo accord regulating the presence of the estimated 400,000 Palestinians in Lebanon.

Palestinian commando leader Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) has hailed the endorsement of the plan as a great achievement, and said it had been accepted by all Palestinian factions.

Mr. Khalaf, second in command of Fateh said the scheme would be executed in two stages.

In the first phase, lasting 15 days, contingents of the mainly-Syrian Arab peace-keeping force would set up a protective cordon around Palestinian refugee camps.

The second stage would entail the withdrawal of "armed men" from southern Lebanon and their replacement by regular Lebanese troops.

The Palestine news agency Wafa reported that the Palestinian leadership yesterday formed a "Higher Security Committee" made up of all commando groups.

The committee urged all guerrilla organisations to delegate a number of their men to join the Palestinian armed struggle command (PASC) -- the commandos' military police -- within 48 hours with the aim of organising "police patrols."

A special tribunal was set up to look into all complaints about disorderly activities, Wafa said.

The rightwing Phalangist newspaper Al Amal today greeted the new agreement with reservation, questioning whether all the commando groups would honour their pledges.

The Communist paper Al Nida said it would be premature to say everything had been settled.

Some voices are still being raised proclaiming that all agreements are useless and that the only solution will be to drive the Palestinians out of the country," Al Nida said.

North Yemen renews its call for Arab summit

SAN'A, July 26 (R). — North Yemen today renewed its call for an urgent summit conference to discuss inter-Arab disputes, Middle East developments and the situation in the Horn of Africa.

A government statement said North Yemen wanted a full Arab summit and opposed all proposals to a restricted one because of the gravity of the issues to be discussed.

On June 1, North Yemen called for an Arab summit but the proposal failed to gain the support of Arab League member states.

In its statement today North Yemen said it had expressed its concern over continued inter-Arab disputes which reached its climax with the Egyptian-Libyan border fighting.

North Yemen said that in addition it was concerned over the continued fighting in southern Lebanon and the deteriorating situation in the Horn of Africa where border fighting has been reported between Ethiopia and Somalia.

It left the agenda, date and venue of the proposed summit for Arab League Secretary General Mahmoud Riad to decide in consultation with league members.

King Hussein says war unavoidable if Mideast peace process fails

AMMAN (JNA). — War and upheaval in the Middle East will be unavoidable if the process for peace fails, His Majesty King Hussein said in an interview with United Press International and released here in Arabic Tuesday. The United States should have a role to play in bringing peace to the area His Majesty said.

The King told UPI he hoped that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will bring with him a clear-cut American position regarding the Middle East after President Carter's series of talks with leaders of the area. Mr. Vance is due to visit Middle East states including Jordan early next month.

King Hussein warned that without sufficient preparations, especially by the United States, the Geneva peace conference will end with disappointing results.

The King emphasised that a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute requires an Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories occupied in 1967, and recognition of the legitimate rights of Palestinian people in their homeland.

Referring to President Carter's call on Israel to pull out of the occupied Arab territories and for establishing a Palestinian homeland, King Hussein said that President Carter's courageous stand is encouraging. He said he cannot see any solution to the M.E. crisis without the return of the West Bank, the Gaza strip and other territories occupied by Israel in 1967.

King Hussein underlined the necessity of granting the Palestinian people their rights, including self-determination, and freedom of expression in everything connected with their link with Jordan. "Any relationship between the proposed Palestinian state and Jordan cannot take its final form unless it was freely determined by both Jordanians and Palestinians alike," the King added.

If Israel is not willing to evacuate the occupied Palestinian territories, the area would face a dangerous crisis, the King added.

King Hussein went on to say that in the case of failure of the American efforts to achieve a permanent and just peace to the Middle East, a wave of extremism would overrun the area and a state of despair and commotion would dominate it.

The moderate parties would then find it very difficult to pursue policies which had brought no results.

The King said the situation in south Lebanon can become a flashpoint of a new confrontation that could lead to dissastrous consequences.

On the Egyptian-Libyan dispute and differences among other Arab countries, King Hussein feels deep sorrow. "To see Arab disunity recently reach such a delicate state during the present crucial stage." He expressed hope that these differences were only a passing cloud.

In the past 25 years of Jordan's life, King Hussein said that during this period "we were able to become a state. After the 1967 war we rose up to build a new Jordan. I hope that in the future, we would take a course in which our influence would be felt, and to assist, as much as possible in bringing about a permanent and just peace to the area -- an objective to which I am devoting my life."

U.S. to provide arms to Somalia

WASHINGTON, July 26 (R). — The United States has agreed in principle to provide arms for Somalia, the State Department said today.

Spokesman Hodding Carter said that the Somali request shows that it need not depend completely on the Soviet Union for its supplies.

Somalia approached the U.S. along with several other countries some months ago in an effort to diversify its arms purchases after intensified Soviet arms cooperation with Somalia's traditional rival, Ethiopia.

"We have indicated we would be prepared in principle to provide arms to Somalia along with other countries with which Somalia has been in contact," the spokesman added.

"But we do think it is significant that Somalia knows it is not dependent on the Soviet Union" and that it could obtain arms from other sources," he said.

He declined to name the other countries with which Somalia has contacts, but he said the United States had consulted with "some of our friends and allies" about the Somalian requests.

He made clear the United States did not back Somalia's territorial claims and "continues to support the Organisation of African Unity principle of territorial integrity of its member states."

Asked about the nature of military aid, he said grant aid was not under consideration but the United States might possibly make military sales under the easy repayment terms of the foreign military sales credits. He refused to say what sort of arms might be provided.

The administration's decision reflects the personal involvement of President Carter, who was reported to have reacted angrily when the Soviet Union supplanted the United States as arms supplier to Ethiopia.

The administration's decision in principle to give Somalia military aid is seen rather in the context of President Carter's stated intention to challenge the Soviet Union peacefully for influence in areas of the world that it feels are crucial now or potentially in the future.

Mr. Carter has discussed the situation in Somalia with Congressmen, editors and visiting statesmen in the past few months, reflecting an unusual personal interest in the affairs of the region.

In Nairobi, meanwhile -- Ethiopia has accused Somalia of starting a full scale war by sending troops, tanks and planes across their border and says there has been heavy fighting with losses on both sides.

The Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) said in Addis Ababa that the Foreign Minister, Col. Dr. Feleke Gedle-Ghiorgis, yesterday told diplomats and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) that "the brazen acts of Somali aggression" began early on Saturday with military operations in the Ogaden desert area of southeast Ethiopia.

In another dispatch from Nairobi today, ENA quoted the Ethiopian National Revolutionary Operations Command as saying that regular and militia forces were engaged in heavy fighting with Somali forces and that five Somali MIG planes were shot down by the Ethiopian air force on Sunday and Monday.

The air force destroyed 30 tanks and armoured cars while ground forces captured one armoured vehicle and destroyed nine.

S. African police use tear gas to break demonstration

JOHANNESBURG, July 26 (R). — Police used tear gas to break up a demonstration by black pupils in Alexandra township here today as classroom unrest spread from Pretoria to Johannesburg.

Hundreds of black students abandoned their studies in Alexandra to protest against the detention of two students Monday night, a police spokesman said.

Police fired teargas into the crowd and later called in riot police. But the township, populated by 60,000 blacks in an area of one square mile, was reported quiet this afternoon with police standing by.

One school was damaged during the demonstration and a water lorry was stoned, the spokesman said. It was not immediately known when the Alexandra pupils would resume studies.

The incidents coincided with a continuing boycott of classes by pupils in the Pretoria townships of Atteridgeville and Saulsville in a protest against South Africa's segregated educational system.

The pupils walked out yesterday and said they would not return until they had been given equal opportunity with whites.

South Africa's blacks are educated on the so-called Bantu education system separately from white schooling.

There was no word on whether the boycotts would spread to Soweto, Johannesburg's biggest township. But student sources said militant black leaders there also wanted the separate education system scrapped.

A police spokesman said there had been no injuries or arrests in today's disturbances.

The students have said the pupils are not striking or demonstrating but boycotting classes until black education is controlled by the Department of National Education.

Arab ambassadors in Washington optimistic about Geneva conference

WASHINGTON, July 26 (R). — Arab envoys expressed optimism here that the Geneva Middle East peace conference would be convened later this year.

The ambassadors of Egypt, Syria and Lebanon and the Charges d'Affaires of Saudi Arabia and Jordan held a half-hour meeting yesterday with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to discuss his coming Middle East trip and President Carter's talks last week with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

"We are optimistic about the convening of the Geneva conference," Egyptian Ambassador Ashraf Ghourbel said afterwards. "But we are not by any means satisfied with Begin's stand."

Syrian Ambassador Sabah Kabbani said he agreed with Mr. Ghourbal.

Lebanese Ambassador Najati Khabbani, the senior Arab ambassador here, said the envoys had the impression that the U.S. administration would continue the policy publicly stated by President Carter.

He was apparently referring to calls for establishment of a Palestinian entity and for Israeli withdrawal to its borders before the 1967 Middle East war. These points were not mentioned in public statements here after the Begin visit.

Meanwhile in Tel Aviv the English-language Jerusalem Post said today that the apparent success of Mr. Begin's Middle East talks with President Carter might be short-lived.

The newspaper added that Saudi Arabia, "the most important Arab state has not yet been heard from." All three confrontation states depended to a lesser or greater or total extent on Saudi Arabia's munificence, it said.

"The danger is that Saudi and Syrian acquiescence may be secured in exchange for a clandestine understanding that the U.S. will actively espouse the Arab position on the territorial and Palestinian questions after Geneva II begins," the Post said.

"There is thus much to be said in support of former Premier Yitzhak Rabin's criticism that the glory the Prime Minister collected on his trip may be short-lived indeed, if there is no prior success in ensuring countervailing American support for Israel's stand on the nature of peace and according this issue priority at Geneva.

But it is far from certain that such American support could have been ensured even by the limited kind of territorial flexibility that Mr. Rabin's own government was prepared to adopt.

"All these arguments and counterarguments are therefore hypothetical. Clarity about Mr. Begin's strategy will emerge if and when the Geneva conference gets under way," the Post said.

Lebanese scouts join Israeli rally

TEL AVIV, July 26 (R). — Some 65 young scouts from Lebanon, headed by an officer of a Christian militia organisation, have joined a summer scout camp near Nazareth in northern Israel at the invitation of 4,000 Israeli teenagers holding their annual rally there.

As ceasefire holds

Libyan-Egyptian front seen as explosive

CAIRO, July 26 (R). — President Anwar Sadat has demanded that the Libyan Jamahiriyah dismantle training camps which he say were used for sabotage raids against Egypt, a Palestinian source said today.

The source said that Arab mediators relayed the demand to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi yesterday as part of a set of conditions for maintaining the fragile Egyptian ceasefire which has halted four days of border clashes and air attacks.

The Palestinian source said President Sadat had warned that this was the "last chance" to settle peacefully the quarrel between the two countries.

The source said that the Libyans have counter-charged that there were saboteurs in Egypt who "disturbed the peace" of the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Egypt has retorted that these were political refugees, not saboteurs, he said.

The source said that Palestinians close to mediation efforts by commando leader Yasser Arafat consider the situation between the two Arab neighbours is still "delicate and explosive."

Among President Sadat's demands is a halt to hostile propaganda between the two Arab neighbours, the source said.

But bitter exchanges between the two countries continued today.

The Palestinian source said Mr. Sadat also insisted that a joint Libyan-Egyptian committee should be formed to restore normal relations between the two countries, and that either Mr. Arafat personally or the Arab League as an organisation should supervise it.

The Libyans suggested that Mr. Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should be put in charge of the committee, the source said.

The Egyptian and Libyan governments have repeatedly accused each other of "sabotage".

Just before the border fighting began last week, Egypt accused the Libyans of collaborating with an extremist group of Egyptian Moslems trying to overthrow President Sadat.

The Palestinian source said that, in an effort to settle the issue, Mr. Arafat and Algerian President Houari Boumedienne proposed a joint agreement that "neither state should carry out any activity undermining the national security of the other."

President Sadat announced on Sunday, as he began talks with President Boumedienne, that all Egyptian military operations against the Libyan Jamahiriyah would be halted.

President Boumedienne had then just arrived in Alexandria from Tripoli, where he had held talks with Col. Qadhafi.

After six and a half hours of intensive talks in Alexandria, President Boumedienne flew back to Tripoli yesterday for more talks with the Libyan leader. He flew home to Algiers today.

The semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahram reported today that last Friday, the second of four days of fierce ground and air attacks between the two Arab neighbours, Egyptian planes destroyed a Libyan radar station at El-Adhem airbase near the Libyan port of Tobruk.

"The Egyptian armed forces headquarters has full information on all Soviet radar stations and bases in Libya and it is also aware that Libya has given the Soviets full authority to move freely inside Libya," it added in what appeared to be a warning that Egypt could destroy other such installations.

Iraq today sent its Minister of State, Hamed Algbouri, to Alexandria to hand over a message from President Ahmed Hassan Al Bakr to President Sadat on the conflict.

Flights from Cairo to Tripoli remained suspended.

DAMASCUS, July 26 (JNA). — Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam leaves Wednesday for Cairo and Tripoli to deliver two messages from President Assad of Syria to Egypt's President Sadat and Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi.

President Assad today received Mr. Khaddam who submitted to him a report on his visit to Indonesia.

Sadat supports improved relations with Moscow

CAIRO, July 26 (R). — Egyptian President Anwar Sadat has told Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev that he supports all efforts to improve relations between the two countries provided there is no interference in each other's internal affairs the official Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported today.

MENA said the two leaders exchanged messages to mark the recent anniversary of the revolution which toppled Egypt's monarchy.

In his message, President Brezhnev said: "The Soviet Union has always supported the Egyptian people's liberation struggle. The Soviet Union also supports joint efforts for the sake of strengthening mutual relations, taking into consideration the interests of both our people."

President Sadat replied: "Our people who strongly believe in fruitful and positive cooperation with all the people of the world fully support all efforts for improving relations with the Soviet Union and strengthening friendship bridges on the basis of mutual respect and without any interference in each other's internal affairs for the sake of their national interests, security and peace."

President Sadat, in a speech on July 16, referred to recent efforts to improve relations between the two countries and said: "The Soviet Union wanted to reestablish a friendship treaty and insisted we should pay for our arms needs in dollars."

Mr. Sadat said he replied: "No. I will not sign a new treaty. As for the arms, if I am going to pay dollars it would be better to buy from other sources which are much better by far.

"I am not going to give any special position in Egypt for any power in the world," he stated.

President Sadat last year abrogated a 15-year friendship treaty with Moscow.

Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi had talks with Mr. Brezhnev and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in Moscow last month.

It was agreed then that Mr. Gromyko should make a return trip to Egypt in August. In view of President Sadat's recent criticism of the Soviet Union, it is not yet known whether this trip will materialise.

Italian-U.S. talks centre on Communists, economy

WASHINGTON, July 26 (R). — President Carter began talks today with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti and said the Italian government under his leadership was trusted as well as admired and respected.

His greeting underlined his confidence in the ability of Signor Andreotti's minority Christian Democratic government to survive without Communist participation, even though it depends on Communist parliamentary support.

Signor Andreotti said in an interview in U.S.' News and World Report magazine this week that the issue of Communism in Italy "will be decided by the Italian people and not the United States."

Signor Andreotti said the two days of talks would also cover the international situation, Italy's dependence on imported oil and its efforts to combat inflation and unemployment.

Signor Andreotti's visit is his second to Washington since December, when he conferred with President Ford. At that time, Italy's economic and political situation was regarded here as unstable and uncertain.

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U.S. company to help reorganise telecomms body

AMMAN (JNA). — An American company is to pave the way for the Telecommunications Corporation to work on a purely commercial basis.

The president and a group of experts from Moorcom Tuesday met with Director General of the Telecommunications Corporation Mohammad Shahed Ismail to discuss how to achieve financial and administrative autonomy for the corporation.

The company was chosen for its long experience in streamlining U.S. companies, in particular those working in the telecommunications field, Mr. Ismail said.



Representatives of the American company, Moorcom, Tuesday discuss a reorganisation of the Telecommunications Corporation with its Director General Mohammad Shahed Ismail.

Time of reckoning

Let Israel not be deceived. The days when Israel was indulged and pampered at such exhorbitant cost to peace in the Middle East are clearly over. Mr. Begin cannot go about unilaterally throwing up obstacles to a settlement, his election promises notwithstanding.

The American reaction to the Israeli government's precipitate step in legalising three highly contentious settlements on the occupied West Bank proves the seriousness of Mr. Carter's commitment to finding a real peace in the Middle East.

By expressing "deep disappointment" and denouncing Israel's action as contravening the Geneva conventions and constituting an "obstacle to peace" the U.S. is proving its good faith, and delivering an unmistakable warning to the government of Mr. Begin that it can go only so far in exploiting the special relationship between the two countries.

Mr. Begin had hardly shaken the Washington dust from his feet when the sophisticated witty diplomatist who so successfully wooed the American Press and public reverted to his natural character of the hardlining former terrorist.

The Israeli government's decision to flout the Geneva Conventions and world opinion demonstrates how shifting are the sands upon which optimists presumed the groundwork had been laid for a resumption of the Geneva Middle East peace conference. Exposed too is the fragility of the personal rapport established last week between the Israeli and American leaders.

Did Mr. Begin think that, because the Americans did not take him to task for refusing to discuss Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank, his government could therefore do as it wished with that part of the usurped Palestinian homeland? If so the strongly worded message his government received yesterday should disillusion him of American agreement with his interpretation of divine providence.

President Carter has set himself the task of arranging a reconvened Geneva peace conference later this year. His envoy, U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance is due in the Middle East early next month to bring the Arabs and Israelis closer to sitting down at the Geneva table. His mission is made considerably more difficult by the latest action of the Israelis compounding their occupation of the West Bank.

The Arabs look to any peace talks as a means of achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. They accept that inevitably this means a degree of compromise. But they expect that compromise to be two sided. From the latest action of his government it is clear that Mr. Begin expects any peace talks to ratify the status quo on the West Bank.

The Arabs are prepared to reason with reasonable men, but from his actions Mr. Begin is clearly not from within these ranks.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Two Jordanian dailies Tuesday were concerned with the results of the Israeli Prime Minister's visit to the USA. A third daily commented on the anniversary of the Arab Uprising against the Turks in 1916.

AL RA'I, in an editorial entitled "End of Begin's visit," said that Israeli mass media for the first time on Monday admitted that Prime Minister Begin was unable to alter the viewpoint of the American president on the question of Israeli withdrawal to the pre-1967 borders.

The paper continued by posing the question of how can Israeli withdrawal be accomplished when neither the Arabs are willing to fight for that end nor the USA is willing to put pressure on Israel to withdraw?

The paper concluded by saying that Israeli pre-conditions for attending the Geneva conference -- refusal to withdraw from Arab lands and refusal to recognise Palestinian rights for a homeland -- would ultimately lead to the failure of the conference. The USA's refusal to put pressure on Israel and the continuous arms supply to this state leaves the Arabs with the option of having to confront Israel.

AL DUSTOUR said that it is clear, in the light of their statements to Newsweek magazine, that His Majesty King Hussein and Syria's President Hafez Assad both reject Mr. Begin's suggestions on Middle East peace.

The paper added that these statements are well-timed in that they force the U.S. administration to face up to its responsibilities. For they make clear that the basis for a Middle East peace are U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Israeli prime minister has no right to meddle in the future of the Palestinian state once Israel withdraws from it and he has no right to object to a Palestinian entity on Palestinian soil.

The paper concluded by saying that the King and President Assad thus have closed the door to any tampering with the bases of peace and to any bargaining over Palestinian land. Washington must now clarify its position after Israel has attempted to change the bases of peace.

AL SHA'B said that on the anniversary of the Arab Uprising against the Turks in 1916, under the leaderships of the Sharif of Mecca, Hussein Ibn Ali, the Arabs should take time to recall their history and to subject themselves to critical analysis.

The revolutionary will of the Great Arab Revolution, the paper said, intended to transform Arab backwardness into a renaissance and Arab disunity into an Arab unity. But this revolutionary will was confronted with the treachary of the Allied powers. However, the Arab Revolution kept its commitments, which, according to the paper, was not an error of judgement on the part of the Revolution, as some claim. The error is that the modern Arabs have diverted from the comprehensive national Arab line to a narrower and more localistic line.

The paper concluded by saying that today's Arabs got ideologically lost and that some of them are embarrassed to identify with the Arab Revolution -- which means identifying with Arab history and culture. This is the Arab's greatest error, the paper said.

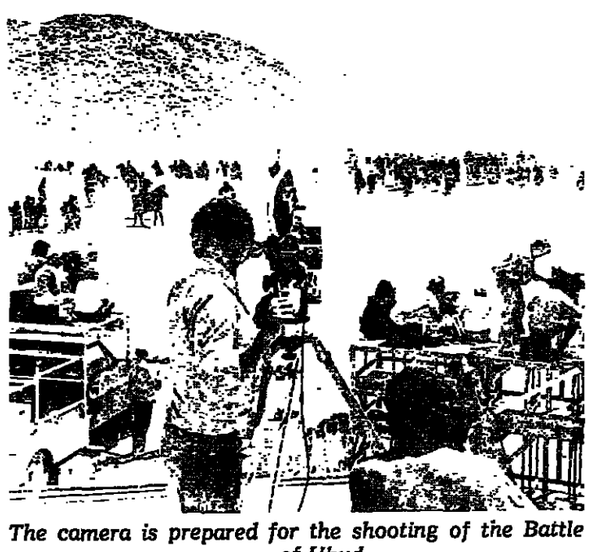
The Message:

A big event, a big show, a big success and a great experiment never attempted before... This is The Message, the film which tells the story of Mohammad, Messenger of God. This film, which made a great impact in Europe and the United States, is currently appearing in Amman in two cinemas: Khayyam in English and Zahran in Arabic.

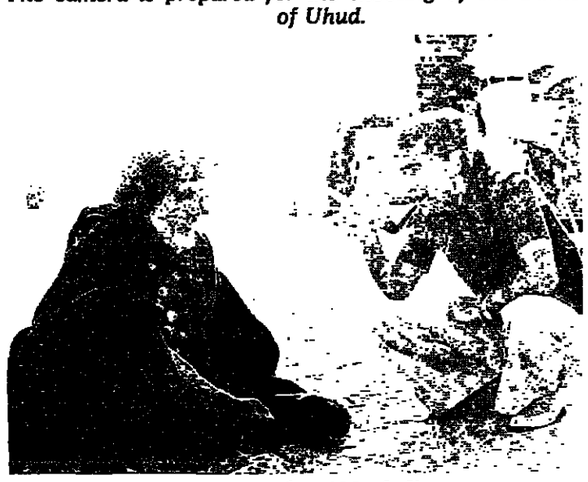
The Message creates history as the first motion picture to be made in two different versions -- English and Arabic -- with two entirely different casts. An epic in the true sense of the word, it took six years to prepare and over one year to film. The Producer and Director of such a unique production is Mustapha Akkad, for whom its completion was the realisation of a 10-year dream.

By Irene Ramadan
Special to the Jordan Times

For Mustapha Akkad, the completion of The Message was the realisation of a 10-year dream. However, it wasn't until 1969, when writer H.A.L. Craig began work on the screenplay, that the dream looked like becoming reality. Craig is one of the industry's most experienced screen writers. One of his big successes is Waterloo, which starred Rod Steiger.



The camera is prepared for the shooting of the Battle of Uhud.



Producer/Director Mustapha Akkad discusses a scene with Anthony Quinn.



Hamza (Anthony Quinn) fights fiercely during the Battle of Uhud.

The result of a 10-year dream to recreate the birth of Islam

It wasn't only the complexity of filming to the epic proportion of a de Mille or Griffith -- with a cast of thousands -- which made The Message such a unique production. There was the fact that Akkad insisted on two versions -- English and Arabic -- with two different casts.

Akkad started by opening offices for his project (Filmco International Productions) in Los Angeles and Beirut, and Craig then began work. Akkad spent months jetting across the world, attending endless meetings in an attempt to raise the money. Finally, through Arab International Productions, he got backing from a tripartite group in Libya, Morocco and Kuwait. The budget for this production is one of the biggest in movie history.

Approval of Al Azhar

Then with Craig's first draft in his hands, Akkad went with the author to Cairo, hired a hotel floor and, with three top Moslem scholars from Cairo's Al Azhar University, went over the script line by line.

There were disputes, but Craig amazed the scholars by quoting chapters and verses even page numbers -- from the Quran. Finally, after exhausting weeks of work, every page was approved and signed. Then Akkad began setting up his production team and casting the important roles. Anthony Quinn and Irene Papas were signed for the starring roles -- Hamza and Hind -- in the English version, while Akkad selected Abdullah Ghaith and Mona Wassef for the Arabic version.

At the same time, the producer/director was signing up an impressive team on the production side. Director of Photography Jack Hildyard won an Oscar for his work on Bridge over the River Kwai, while his brother David, in charge of sound, got Academy Awards for Cabaret and Fiddler on the Roof. Maurice Jarre, author of the music, won an Academy Award for his memorable scores for such films as Dr. Zhivago and Lawrence of Arabia. The other members of the production team also had vast film experience behind them.

The reconstruction of Mecca

So to capture the story of Mohammad and the riotous, violent period with its idol-worshipping demagoguery, Akkad assembled an international crew from 29 different countries. Over 40 speaking roles were involved in each version.

Filming The Message began in Morocco on April 16, 1974 at the small -- almost unknown -- village of Ait Boushent, some 25 kms. from Marrakesh. It was here that the director rebuilt Mecca and filmed some of the most spectacular scenes.

The reconstruction of Mecca formed the largest set of its kind since the film Cleopatra: It cost over $1 million. The amount of materials used was enormous: More than 250,000 feet of tubular scaffolding; 300 tons of local shale dug up from nearby fields for walls; 800 tons of mud, as well as straw spread over split bamboo, for other buildings; and 100 tons of plaster for textured walls. Wooden doors, gates and Arabic windows were built to replace the out-of-epoch tin sheets now in use.

There were also dozens of interior rooms, courtyards and gardens, many of them overlooking the market place, where up to 5,000 people were gathered for some sequences.

The Prophet: Never seen

Although filming in Morocco went smoothly, Mustapha Akkad, for political reasons, had to move the whole unit out of the country and find a new location in Libya. The desert surrounding Sebha was ideal for shooting the two battle scenes -- the Battle of Bedr (624 A.D.), in which 300 Moslems fought against 1,000 Meccans, and the Battle of Uhud (625 A.D.) which involved 1,000 Moslems against 3,000 Meccans. Dealing directly with the commander-in-chief of the Libyan army, he got 5,000 soldiers for the battle scenes.

The clever feat of Akkad is to have succeeded in making the audience feel the presence of the Prophet Mohammad without showing him on the screen or letting his voice be heard -- two things forbidden by Moslem tradition. Akkad evoked every detail of the life and the message of Mohammad through the behaviour of his close relatives, friends and enemies, such as his uncle Hamza; Bu-Sofyan the powerful leader of Mecca; his wife Hind; Mohammad's friend Bilal; Khalid, who brought the Moslems to defeat at the Battle of Uhud; Zeid; Amar and many others.

The Message is a film not to be missed if you want to discover the story of the Prophet Mohammad, who changed the history of the world.

MUSTAPHA AKKAD: FROM ALEPPO TO LOS ANGELES



Mustapha Akkad was born in Aleppo, Syria, where he was educated at the American College of Aleppo. He then decided to go to Los Angeles and seek a career in the cinema. He has since become an American citizen and lives in Brentwood, California.

It was in 1953 that Akkad enrolled at the University of California in Los Angeles, from which he graduated with a degree in theatre arts. He then enrolled at the University of Southern California, where he received his master's degree in cinema arts. Completing his studies, Akkad was employed by the CBS-KNXT News Department and worked on the programme As Others See Us.

He then produced his own documentary series and several feature films. One of his most successful was Caesar's War, a production for United Artists, which was syndicated throughout the U.S. by more than 100 T.V. stations.

Supply delegation returns from Far East trade visit

AMMAN (JNA). — A Jordanian supply delegation returned here Tuesday at the end of a three-week tour of Far Eastern countries, during which a commercial protocol was signed with South Korea to increase trade.

The delegation head, Minister of Supply Marwan Qasim, said that the delegation had met, during its tour of South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan and Taiwan, with the Korean prime minister and the ministers of commerce, agriculture and public works of the four countries visited.

Discussion centred on ways to boost cooperation, in particular with South Korea, since Korean firms are presently implementing a number of development projects in the Jordan Valley.

The supply delegation made deals worth $1 million with companies in South Korea and Hong Kong for the supply of goods for the Civil Service Consumers Corporation.

Items include ready-made clothes, footwear, leather handbags, house utensils, blankets, stationery, toys and canned food.

The delegation asked several firms in Taiwan and Japan to provide the Consumers Corporation with samples and prices of their products.

Mr. Qasim concluded by saying he had invited the South Korean commerce minister to Jordan.



Minister of Supply Marwan Qasim (second from left) meets officials and journalists on his return Tuesday from a tour of the Far East.

Prince Hassan meets engineers

AMMAN (JNA). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, Tuesday met with public and private sector engineers and reviewed with them a number of problems related to projects they are supervising and implementing.

His Highness spoke to his audience about the migration of skilled labour. He said that it is due to the quantitative increase in education and the increasing demand in the local market for some types of expertise at the expense of others.

He added that most officials -- both Arab and foreign -- he has met stressed the fact that Jordan is the natural centre for training different kinds of skills.

He explained that there was a great difference between the export of expertise and that of Jordanian technology, which in the long run would be of great advantage to Jordan. He said that this expertise is not up to the standard that allows Jordan's experience to be suitable for export to neighbouring countries.

Civil aviation body makes report on airports here

AMMAN (JNA). — The Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Dr. As'ad Kotaite, Tuesday said the ICAO has prepared a study about Jordan's three airports: Amman and Aqaba airports and the future Queen Alya International Airport.

The study indicates that air and tourist traffic will increase considerably in the next three years, especially after the construction of Queen Alya Airport.

As they will work around the clock, Jordan will be in need of technical cadres to keep them running, Dr. Kotaite said.

He told reporters that he discussed with His Highness Crown Prince Hassan the question of cooperation between Jordan and the ICAO in the implementation and financing of aviation projects in Jordan.

He said he felt that the Jordanian government considers aviation a major sector in the economy.

"I have emphasised to the Crown Prince and Jordanian officials that the ICAO will continue cooperating with Jordan by offering it material support and technical aid for its aviation programmes," Dr. Kotaite added.

The ICAO head said the organisation will implement a programme to train 460 Jordanian technicians. The $2.6 million training course includes scholarships abroad and provi-

NATIONAL NOTES

* AMMAN. – His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a letter from Egyptian President Anwar Sadat on the reasons for the recent Egyptian-Libyan clashes and the political and military developments resulting from the border fighting.

* AMMAN. — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a cable of good wishes from Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker on the occasion of Arab Renaissance Day.

* AMMAN. — Minister of Communications Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh Tuesday received the Moroccan ambassador to Jordan and discussed with him ways to boost telegraph, telephone and postal services between their countries. Mr. Al Rawabdeh will visit Morocco shortly at the invitation of his Moroccan counterpart.

* AMMAN. — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim received the West German ambassador and the Soviet charge d'affaires here Tuesday.

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Part I

Carter and Begin: the American Jewish dilemma

EDITOR'S NOTE:
Eric Rouleau, special correspondent for "Le Monde", the French daily newspaper, the following inquiries analyses Washington's policy in the Middle East, its ercussions on the American political scene and evaluates the risks of possible frontation between President Carter and Menachem Begin.
article appeared in "Le Monde" from 8-10 July and thus was written prior to Carter-Begin meeting in Washington.

By Eric Rouleau

are those American of- who believe that a fru- ialogue could be estab- between President and Israeli Premier hem Begin. Their poli- differences extend to all aspects of the Arab- conflict and seem to can officials to constit- surmountable obstacles.

en their ideological and ophical conceptions are r away from one another e the comparison betwe- lains, the small town Carter was born and town of Brest-Litovsk, Begin was born. Begin not believe that the will be of help to him efforts to win Carter to his thesis," they say.

h a statement might at glance seem too strong. merican president, some hose collaborators have med him the "mission- is a fervent reader of Bible from which he frequently. Some of his s are quoted to say that profoundly convinced of gitimate right of the Je- people to return to the sed land." However they Carter's Zionism is not f Begin. It is not bathed sticism. If it is true that o leaders consider them- as having the responsi- of accomplishing sacred ns, the realisation of one se missions would, sure- ort the other.

extension of the Jewish and to its historic di- ons, as wished by the Likud leader will abo- ll hopes for peace with Arabs and Palestinians. e other hand, the reali- of a permanent peace Middle East, which is p priority goal of Presi- Carter would necessarily le the creation of a Israel". Therefore the dream of Mr. Begin is incompatible with the realism of Mr. Carter.

General opinion considers Carter's Bible to be the Brookings Institute's report in Washington, the report published in December 1975 under the title "Towards peace in the Middle East" which consists of twenty pages and is the result of six months of an intense exchange of views between sixteen personalities reputed to be experts in the field and representing several opinions.

Agreement reached in the Brookings report, notably between reputed Zionists and staunch supporters of the Palestinian cause has furnished President Carter not only with the substance for his Middle East policy but also a political method. One would not be surprised at the resemblance between the institute's reports and Carter's declarations on the subject when one knows that one of the Brookings Institute directors, Mr. Henry Owen had supervised the work of the "group of sixteen" who have prepared the report.

Two of the report's signatories also are President Carter's most trusted advisors on foreign policy, in which he has shown little interest in the course of his career. These are Mr. Zbigniew Brzezinski and Mr. William Quandt. The first won the post of advisor on national security at the White House previously held by Dr. Kissinger. Mr. William Quandt assistant to Mr. Brzezinski is the co-author of an excellent book on the Palestinian movement called "The politics of Palestinian Nationalism."

Mr. Carter's suggestions, like the Brookings report, are only guidelines aimed to lead the belligerants to compromise. He had by intermittent touches sketched a picture of peace as he sees it. The United States president, like General de Gaulle does not improvise. He writes down with care all that he intends to say publicly, and learns it by heart.

If we collect his declarations and suggestions made here and there to the media and on various occasions it becomes evident that they are part of a coherent and structured peace plan parts of which are still missing for the moment.

President Carter has adopted a policy opposite to that of Dr. Kissinger. He decided that a peace package deal should be worked out first and later implemented by steps after it has been approved. The step-by-step policy of Dr. Kissinger faltered after it had attained a number of its goals; to consolidate American influence in the Middle East, support fragile peace on all fronts and gain time by dividing the Arab World. Even Dr. Kissinger realised that it was high time to reverse the process. To determine the cadre, content, modalities of peace would be more easy than to have the belligerants make partial concessions, the end of which could not be foreseen by them.

Contentwise, President Carter has laid down the basis on which an agreement should be founded. Analysing the crucial interests of the two antagonist parties -- while not taking into consideration the aspirations of one or the ambitions of the other -- he proposes a true peace much needed by the Israelis, and the restitution of nearly all the occupied territories, a condition without which the Arab regimes could not survive.

This formula is neither original nor audacious. It has inspired many of his predecessors at the White House and meets the approval of a large majority of international public opinion. But Carter has had the merit to announce it clearly and in public.

He does not believe in secrecy, as did Dr. Kissinger in the handling of the Middle East crisis. For according to him secrecy breeds feelings of mistrust and immobility between the two belligerants. By giving his peace plan a public audience he wants to progressively dispel the myths feeding Israeli and Arab public opinion, as to the demagogy or intransigence of certain leaders in the two camps.

The Carter plan elaborately worked out in detail could be summarised in five points:

1. Quality of peace: The Arabs would recognise Israel formally as well as its right to existence. The end of the state of belligerency would be followed by a complete normalisation of relations, including liberty of movement and circulation in the economic, commercial, tourisuc and cultural fields. This normalisation could not be revoked or changed by any change of government in the countries signatories of the peace treaty.

2. The borders will be approximately those of 4 June 1967. Minor changes should be negotiated and approved by both parties. Taking into account the existence of offensive weapons of long duration, Israel's only guarantee for its security is the recognition by its neighbours of its final borders.

3. Various other security measures should be worked out: The creation of demilitarised zones of 20 kms. in width or more, where international forces could be stationed, the installation of electronic warning alarm systems (similar to those set up in Sinai in 1975) in addition to multilateral guarantees from the Soviet Union, the United States, Security Council, Europe or unilateral guarantees from the United States.

On this last point an official source in Washington has informed the writer that President Carter is not opposed to a contractual agreement. "Our responsibility would not be increased, the source said, as we shall in any case help Israel if its security is threatened. But a contractual agreement guaranteeing formally the security of Israel would dissuade any eventual aggressor."

4. A homeland should be arranged for the Palestinians, as an independent entity (on which President Carter looked with mistrust as it will create chances for Soviet infiltration) or as a part of Jordan or as member of a confederation including Jordan and Syria.

On the other hand, the Palestinian people should be represented at the Geneva Middle East peace conference either through its own delegates or by others representing the Palestinians. The Palestine Liberation Organisation could eventually participate in the peace talks, well informed sources say, if it recognises not only the existence of the State of Israel but also its legitimate right to exist.

Mr. Carter did not define the geographical context of the probably he is waiting first for the settlement of the question of Jerusalem and Gaza. Palestinian homeland. Most

5. Implementation delays. The end of the state of belligerency will take effect immediately after a treaty has been signed. The measures of normalising relations will follow by steps as Israel withdraws from occupied territories. This transition period should not extend beyond two, four or eight years according to President Carter. By this he indicates that he wishes total peace to be in effect prior to the end of a second mandate for the presidency which he intends to work for in 1980.

On the eve of the Israeli elections of May 17, President Carter thought it was not impossible to activate the mechanisms of negotiations. The three Arab leaders surrounding Israel whom he consulted in April and May had approved the suggestions contained in his plan. King Hussein and President Sadat -- the latter after a lot of convincing -- have accepted to normalise completely their relations with Israel ("during a period of five years", the Egyptian president specified). Syrian President Assad, a skillful tactician, "has given an evasive answer", American sources said, "but not completely negative". All hopes therefore were permitted on the Arab sides.

As for the Israelis, President Carter was hopeful in winning them over to his way of thinking. The advent of Mr. Shimon Peres at the head of the Maarakh (Labour Party) after the resignation of Mr. Rabin had been interpreted in Washington as a positive development. Mr. Peres, whose image was not tarnished as that of his predecessor, would have been capable of attenuating the defeat of his party. Pragmatic by nature, he would not have hesitated in conforming realities when faced with the harsh facts.

The victory of the Likud, which no one in Washington had predicted -- even the CIA -- had bewildered official circles there. Mr. Begin was known as a "terrorist" and an "extremist". Few could predict what would be his reation when in power. Passing through Washington beginning 1977, Mr. Begin met only with Mr. Brzezinski, as President Carter was too "much occupied" to receive him. While everyone was wondering about him, Begin depicted a picture of himself which shocked and troubled a number of Americans.

They saw him on television dancing amidst Israeli settlers at Kaddoum (in the West Bank) holding tightly a Torah and promising to multiply settlements on the "liberated territories of Judea and Samaria."

In a succession of declarations, the Likud leader expounded his views on the terms of a peace settlement. Those suggestions were diametrically opposed to those of President Carter.

Apprehension reached its peak when a Likud emissary, Mr. Shmuel Katz came to Washington to reassure American officials. He explained to them that the new Israeli government shall respect the biding engagements of its predecessor in relation to U.N. resolutions 242 and that Mr. Begin's offer to meet with Arab leaders meant that "everything was negotiable."

ECONOSCOPE By Jawad Ahmad

Speculation: Put your money where your mouth is

Newcomers to Jordan are often bewildered by the signs of affluence which they see all over the place. They are specially impressed by the beautiful array of fancy houses that defy those found in Bel Air and Beverly Hills. They wonder how a relatively poor country like Jordan can afford all that.

That reminds me of myself when I first went to the United States to study. My mother insisted on buying four suits for me so that I would look nice in that foreign country. On the first day of the semester I wore a black suit with a red tie and went to class.

Among my classmates I looked like a gypsy bride. Everybody thought at the time that I was the son of a very wealthy Arab who owned oil wells in his backyard.

For my part, I thought that my classmates were sloppy and did not know how to dress in a classroom.

This difference in consumption habits reflects a cultured difference which is wider in perspective. Clothing occupies an eminent position in my consumption pattern, particularly since clothing is considered one of the few essentials on which income is spent here. When people have even a little bit of cash on hand, above and beyond a quite limited income, money is spent on such essentials -- sometimes with extravagance.

In Jordan as a whole, housing is a major consumption item. Under conditions of limited income, fluctuating economies and limited needs, people tend to be myopic, or prefer current rather than deferred consumption. This of course creates that showy extravagance in the case one of major consumption items.

This extravagance is not fixed. It shifts from one consumption item to another. Once it lights on cars, then on houses, then on food, then on durable consumer goods. With every shift, an occasion for speculation arises.

Jordan is not yet completely done with real estate speculation. That spiral which came to a halt almost a year ago might start again. There is excess liquidity tucked away somewhere. It is beginning to emerge in the form of increasing demand deposits.

Where will all that liquidity go? It is difficult to predict with comfort. Yet I have a proposition to make. Economic advisors and executives in this country can direct it where they want. Why not create the atmosphere for that liquidity to go into directly productive ventures such as light, quick-yielding industries, or profitable agricultural ventures. Why not?

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U.N. Law of the Sea Conference faces possible U.S. withdrawal

UNITED Nations, July 26 (R). — A United States withdrawal from the U.N. conference on the Law of the Sea would be nothing short of a disaster, conference President Shirley Amerasinghe said yesterday.

The Sri Lanka diplomat was commenting on a statement last week by U.S. Ambassador Elliot Richardson who said he would be advising President Carter to review the work of the conference, with U.S. withdrawal from the talks an obvious option.

"Certainly, I don't think it is at all satisfactory at this stage for any delegation to say they must review their whole attitude towards the conference," Mr. Amerasinghe told a news conference.

"If that implies the possibility of withdrawal from the conference, it would be nothing short of a disaster," he said.

Mr. Amerasinghe said that definite progress was made at the eight-week sea law session that adjourned on July 15.

"Ambassador Richardson himself acknowledges that in certain very controversial areas we have almost reached consensus," he said.

In Washington Mr. Richardson said his team of negotiators will be ready in a few weeks to advise President Carter on whether the United States should continue taking part in the talks.

He told the House of Representatives International Relations Committee in Washington that the U.S. review involved both substantive issues relating to seabed mining, and procedures used by the United Nations committee in drafting a compromise text on the seabed mining question.

What was still unresolved was a matter of very special concern to the U.S., the system of exploitation of the mineral wealth of the seabed, Mr. Amerasinghe continued.

Commenting on Mr. Richardson's criticisms of the procedures followed in the conference, Mr. Amerasinghe, who is also president of the U.N. General Assembly, said he himself had never been happy with these.

"I hope at the next session, there will be a clear understanding from the very start on how we are going to proceed," he said.

GATT CONFERENCE ENDS IN DEADLOCK

GENEVA, July 26 (R). — A major clash on textiles between industrialised and developing nations seems certain later this year after a 50-nation meeting seeking a new tariff and trade agreement broke up Monday night in deadlock.

Developing countries -- notably Brazil, India and Egypt -- want the present agreement, which expires at the end of this year, renewed without change. The European Common Market countries, however, want it to include provisions for "reasonable departures" from the former agreement, in the form of bilateral accords.

As the textile committee of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) adjourned in deadlock last night without setting a date for resumption, its chairman, GATT Director General Oliver Long warned that failure to agree this year could lead to "disintegration of international trade."

Major textile importers -- the United States and the EEC -- told reporters here yesterday they were asking Mr. Long to open a new GATT "protocol" on textiles for signature as from Dec. 15 by any country.

OPEC ministers will meet in Vienna Aug. 4

CYPRUS, July 26 (R). — Finance ministers from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will meet in Vienna onAug. 4 to discuss further aid allocations to developing countries, according to the influential "Middle East Economic Survey".

The weekly said the OPEC special fund has so far granted loans worth $196.8 million to poor countries which have been identified by the United Nations as the most seriously affected by recent economic stresses.

U.S. calls for investigation of big oil firms

WASHINGTON, July 26 (R). — A nationally known figure should head an inquiry into whether the 15 biggest United States oil companies cheated American consumers during the Arab oil embargo in 1973-74 a government agency report urged yesterday.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) called for the investigation to be set up immediately.

"There has to be a major effort in the shortest possible time to once and for all make a determination if the public was overcharged during the embargo, SEC's top enforcement official, Stanley Sporkin, wrote in the report.

The study criticised as ineffective the Federal Energy Administration (FEA) set up during the embargo to coordinate U.S. oil policy.

Bomb explodes along Alaska pipeline

ANCHOURAGE, July 26 (R). — A bomb damaged part of the installation of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline late last night but left the pipe itself unharmed, a state police spokesman said today.

The spokesman said the device was placed near the pipeline at a spot off the Elliott Highway, north of Fairbanks.

No information was available on the type of bomb or whether it had a timing device and on one has claimed responsibility for the detonation, he said.

Peruvian miners, bankers mount strike for increased wages, full union rights

LIMA, July 26 (R). — Peru's tense labour situation looked more strained today with miners and bank workers set to strike.

About 40 per cent of the 13,000 work force of the state owned mining corporation, Centromin, obeyed a union strike call yesterday for wage rises to offset last month's stiff price increases on food, public transport and petrol.

More were expected to join the strike today despite a tough government statement threatening to dismiss those not back at work within 24 hours. The miners are also protesting against the deportation of their union leader, Victor Cuadros Paredes, to France. Centromin accounts for half Peru's mining exports.

Meanwhile the Federation of Bank Employees, an affiliate of the powerful communist-led General Confederation of Peruvian Workers (CGTP), threatened the military government with another general strike.

The Bank Workers' Union, which has 20,000 members, has demanded the immediate release of all union leaders arrested after last Tuesday's general strike which paralysed Lima.

The union has also called for the re-establishment of full union rights and the repeal of a government decree which authorises firms to fire striking workers.

The government has gotten tougher in the face of mounting protests against the rising cost of living.

Last week's general strike followed weeks of rioting in key provincial cities where an estimated 10 people were reported to have died in clashes with security forces.

Seven others were killed during the strike when troops opened fire on rioters in shanty-towns surrounding the capital. Hundreds of labour leaders who backed the strike were arrested.

General Alcibiades Saenz Barsallo, the new economy minister, will announce a new economic programme next week, informed sources said. He is expected to reverse some of the harsher measures which led to the resignation of his predecessor, Senor Walter Piazza, and triggered off the present labour unrest.

The government has already ordered a reduction in the price of bread and pasta and a freeze in the price of butter, milk and oil.

Carter administration rejects Sen. Byrd's request to defer AWACS planes sale to Iran

WASHINGTON, July 26 (R). — The Carter administration told a Senate panel yesterday it planned to go ahead with the proposed sale of seven advanced radar planes to Iran despite a request by Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd to defer it until next year.

Sen. Byrd wrote to President Carter over the weekend saying it would be impossible for the Senate to give the $1.2 billion sale the careful consideration it deserved before Congress recessed on August.

The administration's rejection of the Senate leader's request was revealed by a subcommittee aide after a closed meeting of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Foreign assistance.

Witnesses from the Defence and State Departments defended the sale against charges by the General Accounting Office (GAO), the congressional watchdog agency, that the sophisticated equipment might fall into hostile hands and endanger U.S. security. The GAO said that alternative radar systems had not been considered fully.

The planes -- called airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft -- are essentially Boeing 707s fitted with advanced electronic equipment.

The administration called the General Accounting Office report inaccurate and misleading.

It said the advanced radar planes were a cheaper, more effective alternative to ground systems because of the Iranian terrain and climate.

Sen. Byrd had said that he had reservations about the sale and suggested the offer be resubmitted since it was not critical that action be taken this year.

Erich von Marbod, acting director of the U.S. Defence Security Assistance Agency, said the plane would help assure that Iran maintained a modern air force which in the 1980s and 1990s would be equal to that of any hostile regional force except the Soviet Union.

He said the Iranians were apprehensive of Soviet support for some of its neighbours, especially Iraq.

The Senate subcommittee is due to meet later this week to decide whether to refer the matter to its parent committee with a recommendation.

Senate opposition to the sale is being led by Sen. John Culver of Iowa.

The sale has also provoked considerable opposition in the House.

The House International Relations Committee has scheduled a hearing on the sale for Thursday, at which Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Deputy Secretary of Defence Charles Duncan are due to testify.

Lance receives vote of confidence from Senate committee

WASHINGTON, July 26 (R). — U.S. Budget Director Bert Lance, one of President Carter's closest confidants, received a fresh vote of confidence yesterday from a Senate committee after defending a $3.4 million personal bank loan he obtained.

Mr. Lance, head of the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), denied anything improper in the loan from the First National Bank of Chicago two weeks before the Carter administration took office on January 20.

He also denied he was given special consideration for the loan because the Georgia bank he headed had opened a non-interest-bearing account in the Chicago institution a month before he was granted the loan.

"You have been smeared from one end of the country to the other, in my opinion unjustly," Senate Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Abraham Ribicoff told Mr. Lance, referring to news accounts of the loan transaction.

Other committee members, both from Mr. Lance's Democratic Party and from the Republican opposition, said Mr. Lance had adequately answered the newspaper allegations.

Sen. Ribicoff told reporters his committee has ended its probe of Mr. Lance's bank loan but will give the transcript of the hearing to the U.S. controller of the currency.

The controller, who regulates national banks is "conducting an inquiry over possible violations of the national bank act," Mr. Ribicoff said.

Mr. Lance said the controller "will find nothing but a straightforward business transaction" in the bank account.

Mr. Lance's finances were taken up by the committee after he and President Carter recently asked for a waiver of his commitment to sell 200,000 shares of National Bank of Georgia stock by the end of 1977 to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest.

The stock is now in a trust administered by Mr. Thomas Mitchell, a Georgia businessman, who informed the committee he is on the verge of selling Mr. Lance's holdings.

Mr. Lance said two weeks ago he would lose some $1.6 million if forced to sell the stock at present depressed prices of around $12.

But Mr. Mitchell indicated at the weekend that he had found a buyer willing to pay more than the trading price of the stock. Mr. Lance said this was not unusual in the sales of large blocks of bank stock.

Soviets raise rents on foreign residents

MOSCOW, July 26 (R). — Soviet authorities issued eviction warnings yesterday in a drive to bring rent increases of up to 120 per cent for foreigners living in Moscow.

Three Western journalists received what foreigners think will prove the first of many warnings of eviction in the dispute, which began early this year.

Hundreds of diplomats and foreign businessmen and journalists then received demands for higher rents from the Diplomatic Corps Service Bureau (UPDK), the foreigners' "landlord" in the Soviet capital.

Most responded by calling for discussion -- and continued to pay at the old rate.

UPDK broke a long silence yesterday, writing to the correspondents of three Western news organisations that the new rent agreements be concluded within 20 days.

Representatives of Switzerland's Neue Zuercher Zeitung, and the Suddeutsche Zeitung and ARD Radio and Television of West Germany, were told that otherwise they could regard the letter as an "official warning of the need to vacate the premises you occupy within two months."

Foreigners expect many more such warnings.

Diplomats say UPDK argues that rents abroad have gone up by about 200 per cent in the last 10 years.

The new rents would mean foreigners paid more than 10 times the rate charged Soviet tenants, and the Soviet Union constantly claims to have no inflation, foreign residents say.

Rent for a typical three-room apartment would go up from the equivalent of £77 a month to £173. A roomier, three-bedroom flat, also furnished would cost more than £300 a month, compared with £163.

Offices are also affected.

Herr Wolfgang Hauptmann of ARD said all three correspondents had written back rejecting the ultimatum but stressing they wanted to negotiate the new rents.

Most Western and Third World embassies were told by UPDK last month it was ready to negotiate rents with them individually, a different approach from that used with the correspondents yesterday.

News Focus

Iran receives boost in drive to bypass Western companies and sell directly to nations

By Ibrahim Noori

TEHRAN, (R). — Iran's drive to sell oil directly to other nations, bypassing Western companies, has received an unexpected boost from the Soviet Union, which has for the first time asked this country for one million tons of crude.

Last month, Brazil agreed to quadruple oil imports from Iran by December 1978 and for three years thereafter will purchase 25 per cent of its oil needs from this country.

Though the Soviet Union requested the oil last December, news of the move was disclosed only five months later by the Soviet trade representative in Iran, Viktor Slavkov. He said the government had not at that time responded to the Soviet request.

The oil, he explained, was for delivery to terminals on the Black Sea. If the deal went through, more Iranian crude would be purchased.

Mr. Slavkov did not explain why the Soviet Union -- which buys crude also from Syria and the Libyan Jamahiryah -- wants Iranian crude in addition to natural gas which is piped from Iran's southern fields to the Soviet border town of Astara.

Informed sources said the two countries were discussing an oil barter deal under which the Russians would build a machine-tool plant in the north-eastern province of Khorasan.

The Soviet Union has already built a machine-tool plant and a steel complex in gas barter. The pipeline, which delivered 10 million cubic metres of gas last year, was built with Soviet credit and repaid in gas.

Iran is also believed to have paid in gas for a variety of items of Soviet military equipment including armoured personnel carriers, amphibious vehicles, trucks and artillery.

But the government has so far failed to barter oil for sophisticated U.S. military fighter jets, although it successfully concluded a £400 million oil-for-missiles deal with the British Aircraft Corporation last November.

The news of new markets is welcomed by the state-owned National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) which has been actively canvassing customers in an attempt to reduce the hold of the Oil Service Company of Iran (OSCO), the main extractors and exporters of Iranian crude.

The NIOC is aiming to market about 50 per cent of Iran's oil output by 1980.

Last year NIOC sold directly a record total of 55 million tons, to 35 customers, for a record sum of $4,600 million. It hopes to push its direct sales this year even higher.

Whether the Soviet Union and other countries buying Iranian crude pay in cash or kind, an expanded market means more income and less dependence by Iran on OSCO.

On every barrel of oil sold directly, the NIOC earns an extra 22 cents that otherwise would go to OSCO in the form of discount for exporting oil under the 20-year agreement signed in 1973.

The NIOC has bartered oil with Rumania and other countries for refinery equipment and in acquiring equity in refineries in India, South Africa, South Korea and Senegal.

Good news has come recently from Bulgaria, Finland and East Germany.

Bulgarian Ambassador Kiril Shterev said his country, which imported 400,000 tons of crude from Iran last year, will buy 200,000 tons more this year.

Finland said it would like to double its purchase of Iranian crude which last year totalled 700,000 tons.

East Germany, which imports 15 million tons from the Soviet Union annually, last year bought 375,000 tons of oil from Iran and is expected to step up purchases this year.

In the first quarter of this year Iran sold 1.9 million barrels of crude to Spain, replacing Saudi Arabia as the main supplier of oil to that country.

Switzerland is reported to be interested in buying Iranian crude.

The new five-year deal with Brazil is worth $5 billion of which Iran will spend $1,500 million in buying Brazilian goods and services. A soyabean complex to be built in Iran is a major joint project under discussion.

Britain predicts annual North Sea oil production

LONDON, July 26 (R). — The British government last night forecast annual oil production from the British sector of the North Sea would range from 100 to 150 million tons in the years 1980-1985.

The figures were given by Dr. John Cunningham, energy under secretary of state, in a parliamentary answer.

He stated that offshore oil in the area in the first year -- 1975 -- totalled 1.1 million tons. Last year's production was 12 million tons and in the first half of this year it was 17 million tons.

The forecasts were: 40-45 million tons in 1977, 60-70 million tons next year, 80-95 million tons in 1979 and 100-120 million tons in 1980, he said.

"Annual production in the years 1980-1985 is expected to be in the range of 100-150 millions."

The minister added: "For fields already in production or under development the unit cost of production is estimated to range from $3 to $9 a barrel at 1976 prices, including exploration, development and operating costs and interest."

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

EEC agrees on loan to Lebanon

* BRUSSELS, July 26 (R). — Common Market foreign ministers today agreed in principle to an EEC loan to help the reconstruction of Lebanon but did not fix the amount community officials said here. Earlier EEC sources said the community was considering a loan of up to $55 million to help repair some of last year's civil war damage.

UAE considers power project for Pakistan

* ABU DHABI, July 26 (R). — An Abu Dhabi economic mission will leave here for Pakistan on Aug. 4 to discuss the possible financing of a power project for Karachi, it was officially reported here today. The Emirates News Agency said the project was vital for the city of Karachi and would produce an extra 125 megawatts powered by gas turbines. Funds for the project might be provided by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development the state's foreign aid agency.

North Yemen, UAE discuss aid

* ABU DHABI, July 26 (R). — North Yemen State Minister Mohammad Salem Basendwa started talks here today on further aid to his country from the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development. Mr. Basendwa, who arrived here yesterday, was seeking finance for water, sewerage, port, agricultural, animal husbandry and cement production projects, officials said. Experts from the fund will visit North Yemen later this year to study the projects on the spot and the fund has agreed to look into Yemeni requests for extra funds to finance the shortfall in the costs on projects already receiving Abu Dhabi aid, they added. Among such projects were water works for Sana', the Yemeni capital, and an agricultural scheme for the southern mountain region, they said.

IMF will meet to discuss special fund

* WASHINGTON, July 26 (R). — Finance ministers from key member countries of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will meet in Paris on August 6 to finalise details of a special fund to help nations with balance of payments problems, the organisation said yesterday. The fund will be financed by Western nations with strong currencies and major oil exporting countries. It has been named the "Witteveen facility" after IMF chief Johannes Witteveen and will give short-term help to both developed and developing countries. Informed U.S. administration sources said it would be worth about $11 billion compared with Mr. Witteveen's original target of about $16 billion.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Following are official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

Saudi riyal	91.5	91.8
Lebanese pound	104.1	104.5
Syrian pound	80.3	80.7
Iraqi dinar	950.00	955.00
Kuwaiti dinar	1127.0	1132.0
Egyptian pound	465.0	470.0
Libyan dinar	700.0	710.00
UAE dirham	82.9	83.3
U.K. sterling	559.0	565.0
U.S. dollar	324.0	326.0
German mark	144.6	145.0
French franc	67.7	67.9
Swiss franc	136.5	136.9
Italian lira (for every 100)	36.9	37.1

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of inter-bank trading on the London Foreign Exchange Market yesterday. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One sterling	=	1.7201 / 03	U.S. dollars
One dollar	=	2.2455 / 65	West German marks
		2.4068 / 78	Dutch guilders
		2.3825 / 35	Swiss francs
		34.88 / 91	Belgian francs
		4.8015 / 30	French francs
		881.00 / 20	Italian lire
		264.30 / 40	Japanese yen
		4.2870 / 2500	Swedish crowns
		5.2035 / 65	Norwegian crowns
		5.8910 / 40	Danish crowns

WALL STREET REPORT

Not received

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Stock prices were lower Tuesday on balance in trading, dealers said. At 15:00 the F.T. index was down 6.1 at 431.1.

Government bonds rose an initial 1/4 point but tight money conditions prompted small selling of shorts. Longer maturities reacted in sympathy and returned to overnight levels. Golds drifted lower. Canadians and U.S. dollar stocks lost ground.

Gold price not received.

هكذا صدر الأصل

هكذا هي الأصل

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Think in as broad a scope as possible for you now have the opportunity to build a whole new set of conditions for the future that can bring you an expanded consciousness where it means the most to you. This also applies to any trips you are interested in taking so get all possible information.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get together with persons of different culture from your own and learn much from them. Complete arrangements for a trip you want to take.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Show more concern for the welfare of a loved one and have better rapport. Take care of credit affairs more wisely.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Find out what your true position is with partners and come to a better understanding. Work out agreements more intelligently.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Handle tasks that are most pressing or most interesting. Cooperate more with co-workers. Be careful in motion of all kinds.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) If you use more direct methods with a loved one, you find you get better results. Get into the recreations that please you the most.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study into new projects that can be more to your liking and make you more successful. Do some entertaining at home, but stay within your budget.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Use your energy for some work on a mutual project you have with an ally and get good results. Study policy matters with other partners. Take care you are not led around by the nose by inferiors.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Find the right way to have more abundance in the future and get right to work. Consult a fine adviser who can give you good ideas.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Go after what it is you most desire and accomplish a great deal now. You can make progress through social avenues also.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) An adviser can give you good ideas privately that can be put in operation quickly to your betterment. Find a better way to please closest tie, also. Don't lose your temper with others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be your friendly self and make big headway with others and feel happier, more prosperous, meet interesting personalities.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Handle public and career affairs well today and you can soon enjoy a more enviable position in life. Become more efficient and your work can become a pleasure instead of a bore.

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ELITE STEAKHOUSE

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First Circle, Jabal Amman, near the Ahliyah School or CMS. Tel. 38868. Open daily from noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight.

Also take home service - order by phone.

QUICK MEAL

Restaurants for broasted chicken and light snacks. Take home, lunch or dinner. Jabal Amman, First Circle. Tel. 21083. Jabal Al Luweibdeh, Hawuz Circle. Tel. 30646 Jabal Al Hussein, near Jerusalem Cinema. Tel. 21781. Also in Zarka and Irbed.

THE DIPLOMAT

First Circle, Jabal Amman. Tel. 25592.

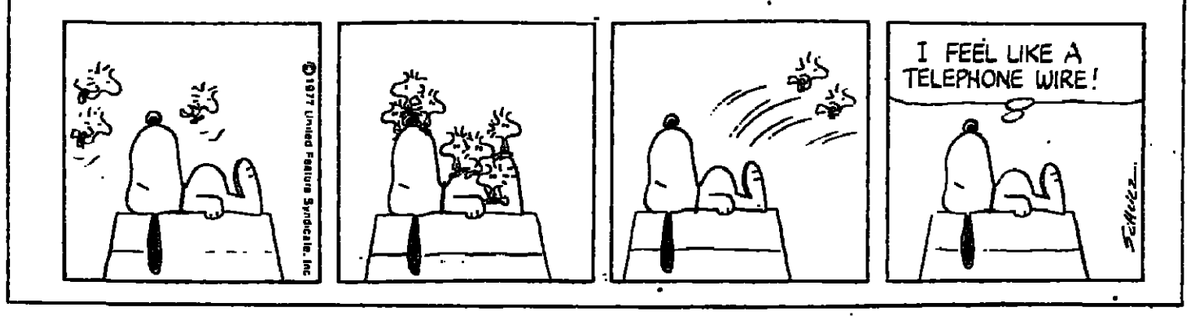
Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Restaurant, coffee-shop, snack bar and patisserie.

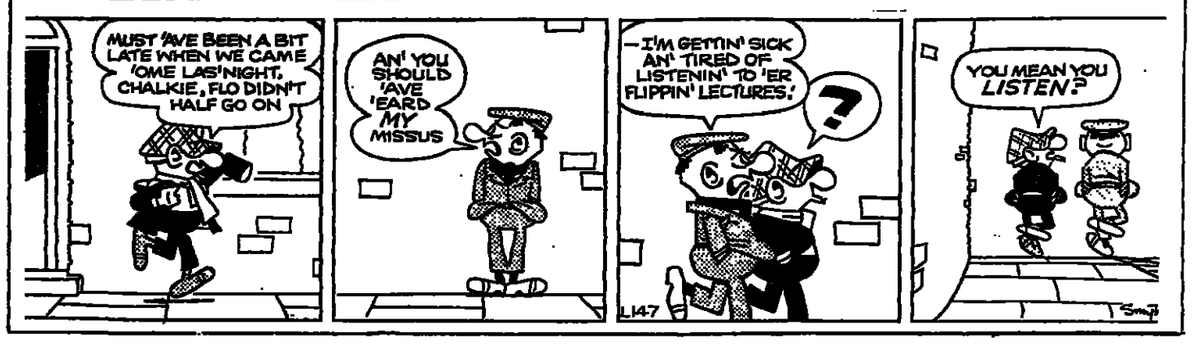
Oriental and European specialties.

For advertising in above columns contact "Sout Wa Soura" Tel. 38869. Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

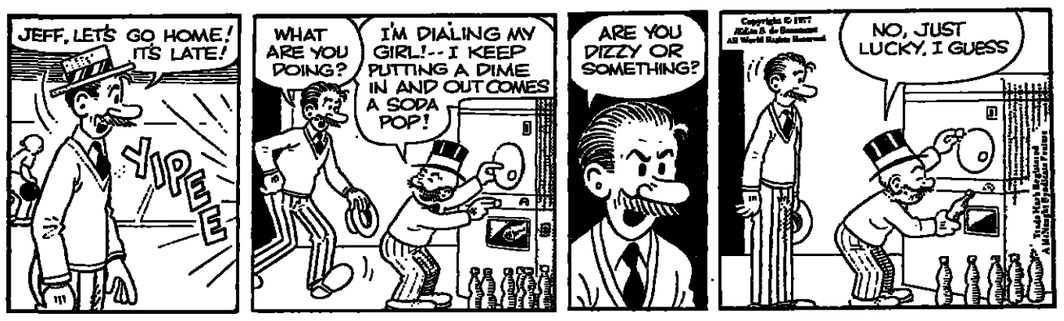
PEANUTS



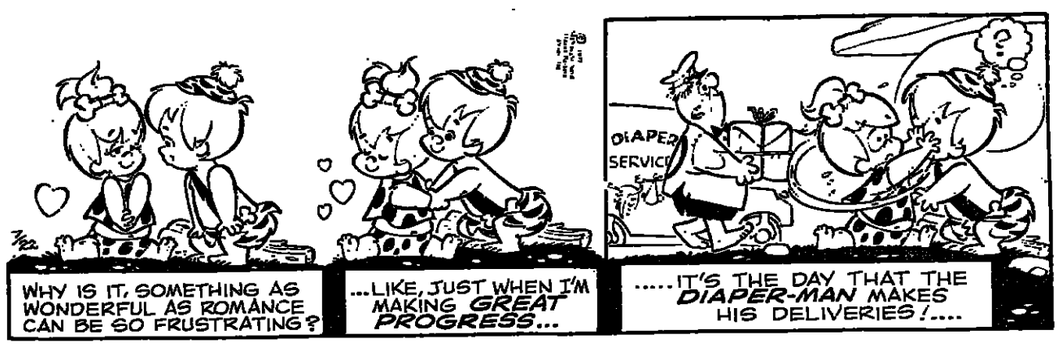
ANDY CAPP



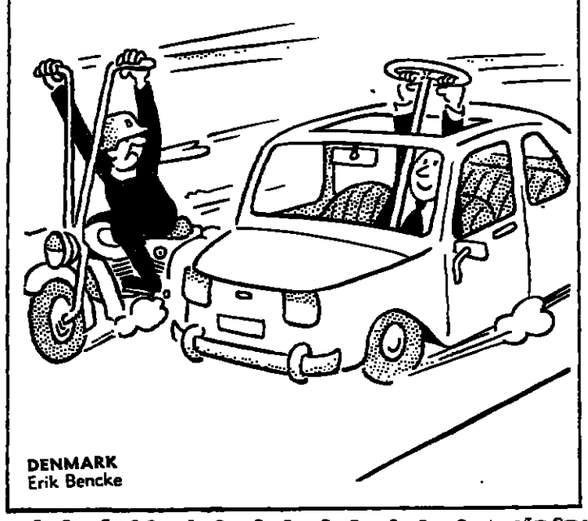
MUTT & JEFF



THE FLINTSTONES



LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



DENMARK
Erik Bencke

THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



"I didn't mind the chunky soup, but I could do without this chunky gravy."

PROVERB

God's wheels of judgement grind exceedingly slow, but they grind exceedingly fine.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

© 1976, The Chicago Tribune

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A 7 6 4 2
♡ Q 8 4
◇ A 6 3
♣ K 4

WEST
♠ J
♡ 5 2
◇ J 8 4 2
♣ Q 9 7 5 3 2

EAST
♠ K 9 8 5
♡ 10 7 3
◇ Q 10 7
♣ J 10

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 3
♡ A K J 9 6
◇ K 9
♣ A 8 6

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♡	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	3 ♡	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♡	Pass
6 ♡	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

In the immortal words of Alexander Pope, "A little learning is a dangerous thing." Declarer knew just enough about the probabilities of distribution to make him overlook a virtually ironclad line which would have landed his slam contract.

North-South conducted an orderly auction to their best spot. South felt his hand was too strong to open one no trump because of his good five-card major and fine intermediates. After North responded in spades, South manufactured a temporizing bid of two clubs to give his partner an opportunity to clarify his holding. When North vigorously supported hearts, South checked on aces, then settled in the small slam when he found his side was off an ace.

West's spade lead looked to the world like a singleton, so declarer rose with dummy's ace. Since he could afford to lose a spade, declarer cashed the king and ace of clubs, then tried to ruff a club in dummy with the eight. East overruffed, cashed the king of spades and gave his partner a ruff for a two-trick set.

South defended his play by claiming that he couldn't afford to ruff with the queen of trumps in case the trump suit split 4-1. Surely that was more likely than a 6-2 club split? True enough, but declarer failed to realize that he could have claimed his contract if trumps were divided no worse than 4-1.

After winning the ace of spades, declarer should draw one round of trumps with the king. When both defenders follow, all declarer has to do is pull the remaining trumps and concede a trick to the king of spades. He wins any return in his hand, cashes his high spade, enters dummy and ruffs a spade. That sets up dummy's fifth spade for a club discard while declarer still has an entry to the board in one of the minor suits.

By establishing dummy's side suit instead of trying for a ruff, declarer has no problem limiting his losses to the king of spades.

JUMBLE® THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

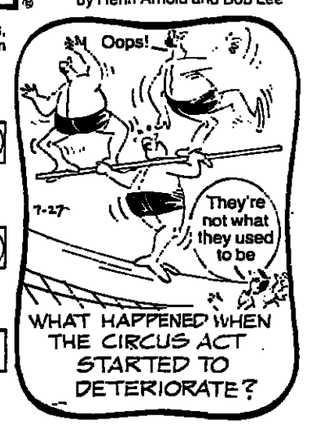
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ELLAP

NOFEL

DYFLAG

SENFUI



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THERE WAS A _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: OCTET ENEMY FROZEN AVENUE

Answer: It calls for something extra from a performer—"ENCORE!"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

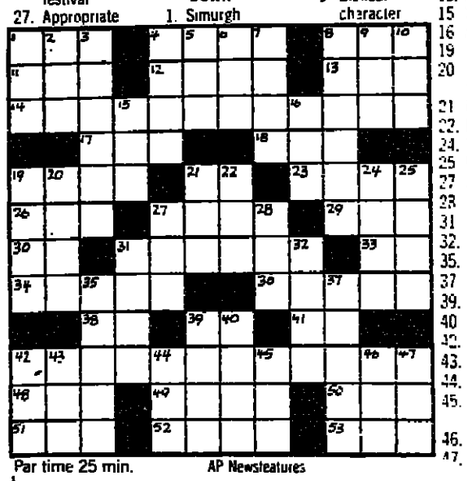
1. Inlet
4. Gambles
8. Shout
11. Fantastic
12. Greenland's colonizer
13. Extend
14. Snarl
17. Faulty
18. Pan
19. Excessively
21. Roman copper coin
23. Craters
26. English country festival
27. Appropriate
29. Tip
30. Toward
31. Cleared
33. Live
34. Nose
36. Consider
38. "Little Rhody"
39. Bone
41. Indian madder
42. Up-to-date
48. Fighter
49. Trappings
50. Samoan warrior
51. Ballet step
52. Aware of: slang
53. Egyptian cotton

DOWN

1. Simurgh
2. Synthetic language
3. Regard
4. Telephone inventor
5. Biblical character
6. Nervous disease
7. Card game
8. Vocational institution
9. Coffee
10. Desire
15. Thickness
16. Aglet
19. Tubs
20. North Carolina college
21. Faculty
22. Perched
24. Tunnel
25. Prophet
27. Acquire
28. Foundation
31. Night: French
32. Precious
35. Avifauna
37. Sings below key
39. Predichon
40. Quarrel
42. Climax
43. Palm leaf
44. Conceit
45. Mountain, comb form
46. Kiwi
47. Tibetan ox



SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE



Par time 25 min. AP Newsfeatures

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 8 :

6:00 Quran
6:05 Children's programme
7:00 Laverne and Shirley
8:00 News in Arabic

Channel 6 :

7:30 News in Hebrew
7:45 Varieties
8:30 Happy days
9:10 Duchess of Duke Street
10:00 News in English
10:15 Mystery movie

Channel 8 :

7:30 Sports programme
8:20 Arabic series
9:20 Reportage

RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Breakfast show
7:30 News
7:40 News report
8:00 Morning show
11:30 Comedy
12:00 Pop session
13:00 News summary
13:05 Pop session
15:00 Concert hour
16:00 Easy listening
17:00 Songs for you
17:30 Pop session
18:00 News summary
18:05 Pop session
18:30 Play of the week
19:00 News
19:10 Sports review
19:30 Sports round-up

EMERGENCIES

Doctors :

Amman :
Tayseer Saadi (77636)
Wajih Barakat (38770)

Irbid :
Ahmad Tawalbeh (2035)
Hisham Izreiki

Pharmacies :

Amman :
Fawzi (64216)

Habayeb (42930)
National (22924)
Bushnaq (3a955)

Irbid :
Wahda

Zarqa :
Shaab

Taxis :

Jerusalem (38075)
Shmeisani (71423)
Nejd (64433)
Mahd (22039)

BBC RADIO

GMT
05:00 World News; 24 hours
05:30 Sarah Ward
06:45 The World Today
06:00 News; Press Review
06:30 Terry Wogan's LP Showcase
07:00 News; 24 hours
07:30 Sarah Ward
07:45 Report on Religion
08:00 News
08:15 News; Press Review
08:30 Ballet in Britain
08:00 News; Press Review
9:40 Look Ahead
09:30 Financial News
4:45 Paperbacks
10:00 Talkabout
10:30 Command Performance
11:00 News
11:15 Armchair Travels
11:30 Farming World
12:00 Radio Newsreel
12:15 Brain of Britain 1977
12:45 Sports Round-up
13:00 News; 24 hours
13:30 World Radio Club
13:45 A Jolly Good Show
14:30 The Mystery of Loch Ness
15:00 Radio Newsreel
16:00 News; Commentary
16:15 My Word
16:45 The World Today
17:00 News
17:09 Second Hearing
17:40 Book Choice
17:45 Sports Round-up
18:00 News; Radio Newsreel
18:30 Promenade Concert
19:00 Outlook : News Summary
19:40 Stock Market Report from Vienna
20:00 News; 24 hours
21:00 Report on Religion
21:15 Wales '77
21:30 The Men from the Ministry
22:00 News; The World Today
22:25 Financial News
22:35 Moment Musical
22:45 Sports Round-up
23:00 News; Commentary

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT
09:00 to 06:30 The Breakfast Show 03:00, 04:00, 05:00 and 06:00
GMT : News, Regional and Topical Reports; VOA Current News Summary.
03:30, 04:30 and 05:30 GMT : An informal presentation of popular music with feature reports and interviews, answers to listeners' questions, Science Digest.
17:00 News Roundup. Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses, News Summary.
17:30 Dateline.
19:00 Special English. News
09:45 Feature : Space and Man. News Summary
16:30 Music USA (Standards)
19:00 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses, News Summary.
19:30 VOA Magazine. Americana, Science, Cultural, Letters.
20:00 Special English. News.
21:00 VOA World Report : Music USA (Jazz).
20:15 to 21:30 News .. newsmakers' voices .. correspondents' reports ... background features ... media comments ... news analyses
Paperbacks

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals :

7:55 Dhahran, Kuwait
7:55 Cairo (EA)
8:20 Dubai (AZ)
8:25 Muscat, Doha
9:00 Jeddah
9:45 Abu Dhabi
9:50 Aqaba
10:00 Larnaca (CY)
11:15 Beirut
11:00 Baghdad (IA)
11:45 Bucharest (Tarom)
12:25 Jeddah (SDI)
13:30 Kuwait (KAC)
13:30 Athens (GA)
17:00 Benghazi
17:15 Amsterdam, Brussels, Geneva
18:45 Cairo
19:30 Beirut (MEA)
20:30 Riyadh, Damascus (SDI)
21:05 Frankfurt, Munich, Damascus (Lufthansa)
21:35 London (BA)

Departures :

8:00 Aqaba
8:45 Beirut (MEA)
8:45 Cairo (EA)
9:00 Beirut
9:05 Rome (AZ)
10:00 Athens, Amsterdam (KLM)
10:30 Benghazi
11:00 Larnaca (CY)
12:00 London
12.30 Baghdad (IA)
12:45 Bucharest (Tarom)
13:00 Riyadh, Damascus (SDI)
13.00 Cairo
13:30 Jeddah (SDI)
14:15 Kuwait (KAC)
14:15 Doha, Dubai, Muscat (GA)
20:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai
20:30 Kuwait
21:30 Dhahran
21:35 Rawalpindi (BA)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 75111
Civil defence rescue	" 24391-6
Fire headquarters	" 22000
First aid, fire, police	" 19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	" 36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	" 57111-3
Police headquarters	" 39141
Najdeh, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	" 21111, 87777
Airport information (Alia)	" 53285

Cultural Centres

American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 41520
British Council	" 36147-8
French Cultural Centre	" 37008
Goethe Institute	" 41998
Soviet Cultural Centre	" 44288
Amman Municipal Library	" 36111

Another jolt to alliance

Chinese press slams Albania

PEKING, July 26 (R). — Chinese newspapers today published a thinly-veiled attack on Albania amid increasing evidence of a serious rift between Peking and its once-close ideological ally.

Two Peking newspapers, including the People's Daily, gave prominence to a statement by a Greek Marxist-Leninist refuting Albanian claims that China was deflecting the revolutionary movement from its true path.

The news item did not mention Albania by name but alluded to "revisionism, dogmatism, splittism and opportunism." in Tirana, the Albanian capital.

In his statement Mr. Petros Stagos of the Greek Revolutionary Communist Movement, defended Mao Tse-tung's concept of the three worlds -- superpowers, developed countries and developing countries.

Earlier this month, the Albanian newspaper Zeri i Popullit (Voice of the People) attacked the three worlds theory as anti-Leninist.

Reports from Belgrade yesterday said Albania had told Chinese experts in the tiny Adriatic country there would be no need for them to stay "beyond a certain point." There was no official comment here.

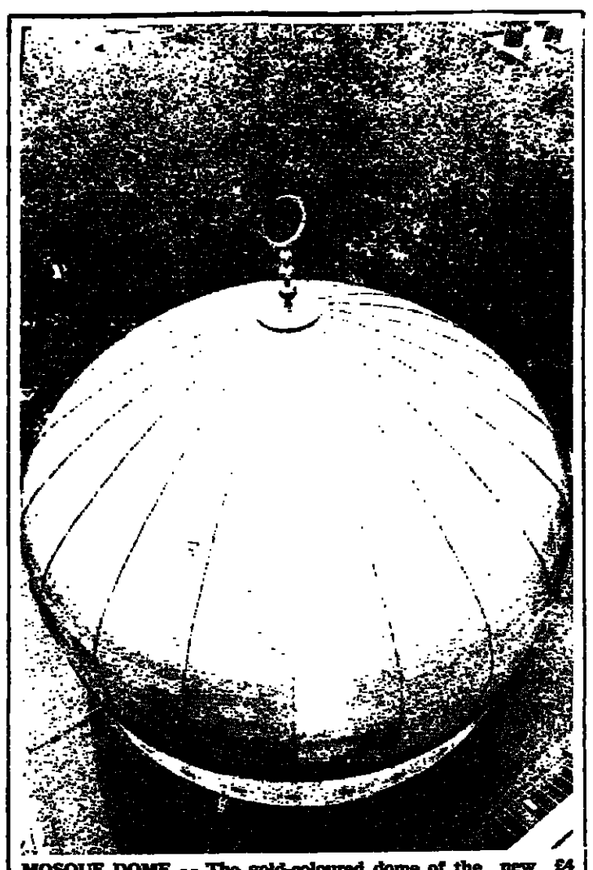
Today's news item was the nearest Peking has come to a direct answer to the Zeri i Popullit editorial and suggested Albania may be playing into Moscow's hands.

It spoke of "opportunism which may be leftist in words ... and serves the policies and cunning plots of Soviet social-imperialism."

There have been other signs that the lop-sided relationship between the 800 million Chinese and 2.5 million Albanians was floundering.

Chinese coverage of Albanian news has shrunk -- perhaps because Tirana has still not reported last October's downfall of China's "gang of four" radicals.

Albania appeared disturbed by the radicals' dismissal. One of the group, Mr. Yao Wenyuan, was the last important Chinese to visit the Balkan state.



MOSQUE DOME -- The gold-coloured dome of the new £4 million Central Mosque stands out against the backdrop of trees in London's Regents Park. Its timber frame is sheathed in copper anodised with a gold finish and is protected from corrosion by a plastic sheeting. The mosque, designed by British architect Sir Frederick Gibberd and built by John Laing Construction Ltd., is the largest of the 400 or so mosques in Britain. Almost all the cost has been met by donations from Arab governments. Gifts in kind include the white and blue frieze around the drum of the dome presented by the Turkish government. The new mosque -- the focal point for Britain's Moslem community, which is estimated at anything between 500,000 and a million, occupies a site presented by the British government in return for a site in Cairo where a British church was built. (BIS photo).

But remains committed to defence

U.S. begins to withdraw from South Korea next year

SEOUL, July 26 (R). — The United States said today it would begin withdrawing ground troops from South Korea next year but remained committed to the defence of the country.

U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown told a press conference the withdrawal would result in a more stable situation in Northeast Asia and South Korea would continue to be protected by the U.S. nuclear umbrella.

Agreement on the pullout of 33,000 men was reached during two days of talks here between Mr Brown and South Korean officials. They decided the withdrawal would be phased over four to five years, starting with the removal of 6,000 men by the end of next year.

The United States said that in return it would help South Korea build up its own defences.

South Korea's Defence Minister Suh Jyong-chul told the press conference that what he called these compensatory measures were "constructive and substantive".

While ground forces will be withdrawn, the Americans would boost their air force presence and naval forces would remain in the area, a joint communique said. Some intelligence, communications and other support units also would stay.

American officials said meanwhile that the U.S. force of 60 Phantom fighter-bombers in South Korea would be increased 20 to 25 per cent.

The promise that the United States remained committed to the defence of South Korea came in letter from President Carter that Mr. Brown delivered to President Park Chung-hee yesterday.

"Neither North Korea nor any other country should have any doubts about the continuing strength of this commitment," Mr. Carter wrote in the letter which South Korean officials described as "a most valuable document."

A symbol of the commitment was a combined American-South Korean command promised in the communique that announced the withdrawal.

It added that the U.S.-led United Nations Command, a signatory to the 1953 agreement that ended the Korean war, would continue to function as there was no "viable alternative arrangement" to the armistice.

After the departure of 6,000 men in 1978, the communique said, the headquarters and two brigades of the Second Infantry Division would remain in Korea until the final phase of the withdrawal.

The U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Mr. Richard Sneider, was quoted earlier today as saying: "We are not pulling out of here We are not about to commit hara kiri. It is as much in our interest as the Koreans to do the job in the right way."

Muzorewa: Conference must decide franchise question

SALISBURY, July 26 (R). — Bishop Abel Muzorewa, most "moderate" of Rhodesia's leading black nationalists, said today a round-table conference of black and white leaders should decide on the electoral franchise for a new constitution.

Bishop Muzorewa said in an interview with Reuters today that he believes in universal suffrage, but would not insist that Premier Ian Smith's white minority government accept the point before a constitutional conference.

"I think it does not help us very much to continue to shout at each other about one-man, one-vote, the Methodist bishop said. "I have reached a point where I think that this must now be left to a round-table meeting. The discussions are the prime point."

Mr. Smith, who recently called on Aug. 31 general election to seek a fresh mandate from Rhodesia's present mainly-white electorate, has declared himself ready to accept a form of black majority rule.

But he describes Anglo-American proposals for universal suffrage as completely unacceptable, and wants the franchise based on educational and property qualification.

Bishop Muzorewa leads the United African National Council (UNAC) which claims the support of the vast majority of Rhodesia's blacks.

He said today there has been no positive response to his proposal from any quarter.

"If other people are as concerned -- gravely concerned -- as I and my party are, I believe there should be some response soon from other parties," he said.

The situation in Rhodesia will be grave if there is no political settlement within the next six months, he said.

Vote in Spanish Cortes beats leftist proposals

MADRID, July 26 (R). — Spain's Socialists and Communists were defeated today in an attempt to win greater representation on a parliamentary committee that will decide the urgency of government bills.

The new Cortes held its first working session and defeated the leftist opposition on the two procedural votes in the 350-member Congress (lower house).

The proposals would have ensured greater representation of Socialists and Communists on the committee, made up of four members each of the Congress and Senate, the presidents of both houses and the president of the Cortes.

The Communist proposal was defeated by 169 votes to 140, while the Socialist plan was beaten 183 to 133.

Members of Premier Adolfo Suarez' Centre Democratic Union (UCD), which with 166 seats is the largest group in the Congress, combined with the rightwing Popular Alliance (16 seats) to defeat the leftist proposals.

The vote was an indication of what could happen in the future if the rightist Popular Alliance, led by former Interior Minister Manuel Fraga Iribarne, teams up with the centre-right UCD on important measures opposed by the leftwing parties. The Socialists have 118 seats in the Congress and the Communists 20.

The deputies later elected two UCD members, one Socialist and a Catalan nationalist to the Legislative Urgency Committee.

The 248-member Senate was meeting later to pick its members for the committee.

King Juan Carlos last Friday formally inaugurated the new Cortes, the first to be elected by direct vote since 1936.

It had met in preliminary session earlier this month to choose members of its committees, but today was the first actual session of the legislature which will be called upon to write a new, democratic constitution to replace the authoritarian fundamental laws left by the late Gen. Franco.

Morocco, Mauritania strengthen alliance against Polisario

RABAT, July 26 (R). Morocco and Mauritania yesterday strengthened their military alliance against the nationalist Polisario front movement which is seeking independence for the Western Sahara.

An official communique issued here said the two countries had decided on joint measures to deal with "any aggression against their national independence."

After a meeting of the Mutual Defence Committee, presided over by Morocco's King Hassan, the communique said the two countries had agreed to set up technical commissions "to further reinforce coordination in all fields between the two countries' armies in order to foil all manoeuvres aimed at threatening their national unity and their territorial integrity."

This was seen here as a reference to attacks over the past year on the two countries by the Algerian-based Polisario front. The Western Sahara was ceded by Spain to Morocco and Mauritania last year.

After the Mutual Defence Committee was established in May, Morocco airlifted 600 troops to the Mauritanian town of Zouerate to help defend it against the Polisario front which had made three attacks in the space of two months.

Yesterday's communique said there had been "excellent coordination in defence matters between the two countries" since the defence pact was signed.

7 arrested in Fiat kidnap case

MADRID, July 26 (R). — A group of Argentine nationals has been arrested in Spain in connection with the Paris kidnapping of Fiat executive Luchino Revelli-Beaumont and the bulk of a $2 million ransom paid for his release has been found in Geneva.

Justice sources in the Swiss city said today the ransom money was found in three city banks after bankers had agreed to allow police to inspect contents of private safe deposit boxes.

More than $1,500,000 and a collection of false passports and identity cards, were found in the boxes, the sources said.

In Madrid, a police spokesman said seven Argentinians were detained in the Spanish capital and at the southern Port of Malaga during the weekend. They were expected to appear in court later today.

In Paris, a senior police spokesman said today an eighth person had been detained in France in connection with the kidnapping.

M. Jean Ducret, head of the Criminal Investigation Department of the French police, said the seven Argentinians had travelled extensively in Europe on false South American passports.

"We are certain we have the brains behind the kidnapping," said M. Ducret.

He said police had been able to track down all the suspects through telephone calls made from Geneva by the Argentinians.

Signor Revelli-Beaumont, head of Fiat's French subsidiary, was freed in versailles two weeks ago after being held by his kidnappers for nearly three months.

A self-styled revolutionary group, "the Committee for Revolutionary Socialist Unity," claimed responsibility for seizing Signor Revelli-Beaumont and set four deadlines for killing him.

At the time of his release a Swiss government spokesman said that a $2 million ransom had been paid in Switzerland. The money was handed over in two briefcases on a Geneva street to four men "of the Latin type," the spokesman said.

Swiss banking laws allow banks to lift their famed secrecy at the request of the authorities if the money involved is suspected of being linked to crime.

Californian accused of "soliciting to murder"

WESTMINISTER, California, July 26 (R). — A man accused of luring two women into the desert to photograph them being tortured and dismembered appeared in court here yesterday.

The prosecutor alleged that Mr. Fred Douglas, 48, owned a set of torture instruments "which would make the Marquis de Sade envious."

Mr. Douglas pleaded "not guilty" to charges of attempted murder and solicitation of murder. A further court hearing was set for Aug. 3.

The case has attracted widespread publicity following a scandal over so-called "snuff movies" in which it was alleged that a film shown in a New York pornographic cinema was of a woman being murdered. The film's producers denied that the woman was really being killed.

In the current case, police said they found no movie equipment in Mr. Douglas' possession, and they described photographic apparatus found in his van as "rather amateurish".

His attorney, Mr. Patrick Magers, said yesterday there was no solid evidence that Mr. Douglas intended to commit murder when he was detained last Wednesday. He was arrested while taking two women police officers he thought to be prostitutes to a site near Death Valley for a pornographic photo-taking session.

Official warns of serious racial conflicts in Sweden

STOCKHOLM, July 26 (R). — Sweden's top immigration official said yesterday that clashes between gangs of Swedish youths, known as "Raggare" and Assyrian and Gypsy minorities were only the beginning of possible serious racial conflicts in Sweden.

"Things may well become far worse," Immigration and Naturalisation Board Director Kjell Oeberg said in an interview published in the newspaper, Aftonbladet. His comments were later confirmed in a telephone call with Reuters.

"Year after year we've sat and condemned the United States but now the same things are happening here and we act just as disgustingly," he said.

In the industrial city of Soedertaelje recently, a gang of "Raggare" attacked a group of Assyrians, members of a Christian minority sect who came to Sweden from Turkey and other Middle East countries in the mid-1970s to escape what they describe as religious persecution there.

In the past few days Swedish youths have also clashed with Gypsies living in a suburb of Malmoe.

Mr. Oeberg yesterday expressed astonishment at the lack of public indignation in Sweden at the behaviour of the "Raggare" towards racial minorities.

Mr. Oeberg said that Swedes protested when the "Raggare" vandalised and destroyed public amenities "yet in these cases where "Raggare" now attack minority groups, suddenly there is no reaction and instead of becoming indignant, people say they understand the "Raggare" or even side with them," he said.

Mr. Oeberg said that when the children of today's immigrants grew up they would be much less likely than their parents to tolerate intimidation by racialists.

"They'll gang together and use violence against violence and we can expect riots exactly like those we have seen in other countries," he added.

Accidental explosion follows floods in Johnstown, Penn.

JOHNSTOWN, Pennsylvania, July 26 (R). — An explosion ripped through a building in this flood-ravaged town yesterday, leaving at least 13 people injured, three of them critically, police said.

The blast occurred in a commercial area of Johnstown, which was devastated last week by a flash flood that killed at least 58 people and caused damage estimated at $200 million.

Local officials said the explosion was caused by leaking gas.

Efforts to clear up after the flood were hindered by a severe storm moving through the mountainous area and the National Weather Service issued a flash flood warning to remain in effect for the rest of yesterday.

While the official death toll from Wednesday's flooding reached 58, State Police denied rumours that more than 100 other bodies had been found.

"We heard the report on news broadcasts but there is no way to substantiate it," a police spokesman said.

An estimated 50,000 people were left homeless by the flood, created by a nine-hour thunderstorm on Tuesday night, during which almost 300 mm. of rain fell.

Officials said about 100 people were still missing after last Wednesday's flood. They added that many bodies had been washed away and might never be found.

Johnstown stands in an area known to be prone to sudden flooding, but last week's disaster was the worst in the town since 1889, when more than 2,000 people were killed.

More U.S. infants die of radioactive exposure

NEW YORK, July 26 (R). — Infant deaths rose sharply in five American states exposed to heavy radioactive fallout after a Chinese nuclear test last September, a U.S. radiologist said.

Dr. Ernest Sternglass said yesterday that infant mortality rates in a group of northeastern states had risen by between 13 and 41 per cent early this year.

He said that the "most conservative estimate" showed infant mortality up by 100 deaths in the northeast on the previous year despite an overall drop nationally.

His study, presented last week to the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, indicated that the higher infant mortality in the northeast was probably caused by markedly higher concentrations of radioactive iodine in the thyroid glands of foetuses.

Radioactive iodine tends to collect in cow's milk and concentrate in the thyroid gland, according to Dr. Sternglass, a radiologist at the University of Pittsburg.

U.S. government statistics revealed a higher incidence of infant deaths from causes that could be connected with radioactive iodine in the thyroid in those states where fallout was greatest, he told a reporter.

Parliamentary body questions British military preparedness

LONDON, July 26 (R). — A British parliamentary committee today expressed concern about Britain's ability to rush reinforcements to NATO's northern flank in Norway in the event of war.

A report by the all-party Committee on Expenditure also questioned the practice of taking troops from Britain's 55,000-strong Army of the Rhine for duty in Northern Ireland.

It said some 5,000 troops were now detached from West Germany to the troubled British province, impairing their operational readinesses and depleting the Rhine Army.

The current situation in Ulster offered little hope of bringing down this total, and should the units be needed in Germany they would leave behind a security problem, the report added.

The committee expressed "apprehension" about Britain's NATO-linked strategy of assuming that any conflict will follow a period of rising political tension, allowing time to mobilise reinforcements and reserves.

The 100,000-word report said a number of authoritative sources, including U.S. senators, had spoken of "increasing signs that the Warsaw Pact forces are enhancing their ability to mount a surprise attack."

But it did not pass judgment on this, saying that the committee's task was to assess Britain's ability to mobilise its forces, not to question the assumptions on which strategy was based.

The committee said that during a visit it paid to northern Norway, the question of rapid reinforcements "recurred again and again.

"Concern was expressed at the reduced availability of craft suitable for landing troops and equipment.

"We were left in absolutely no doubt by all the officers, British and Norwegian, to whom we spoke, that unless reinforcements arrived during the warning period of political tension they would probably not get there at all," the report said.

Once the conflict broke out there was little chance of escorts being found for amphibious troop carriers, and Norwegian airfields would be a target for enemy missiles on the first day of hostilities, the report remarked.

"It need hardly be said that to attempt opposed landings on the Norwegian coast would be hazardous in the extreme."

The committee said Britain's stance was inflexible compared to some of its allies and this could limit its scope for transition from a short to a longer war.

The Defence Ministry had a set period of days -- the number was kept secret -- in which it could complete reinforcement and mobilisation plans.

The committee said it was hard to reconcile the ministry's assurances that this delay had been shortened in the last six years "with the cuts in capability in recent years, notably that of 50 per cent in the air transport force."



TRADITIONAL COMMUNION -- Rebel Catholic Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, who is locked in a controversial battle with Pope Paul VI over the question of traditional church ritual which the archbishop wants maintained, gives Communion last Sunday to an elderly woman during a public Mass at a hacienda near Buenos Aires. (AP wirephoto)

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Curfew lifted in Sri Lanka

* COLOMBO, July 26 (R). — A curfew, imposed in parts of Sri Lanka after post-election violence in which 34 people died was lifted today. Life returned to normal. The curfew was ordered last Saturday -- 48 hours after a general election which ousted Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike. The state radio announced today that the curfew was over but said that troops and police would intensify patrols throughout the island. A police spokesman said there had been no fresh violence looting or arson. Supporters of the three main political parties appeared to be equally involved in the post-election turmoil, the police spokesman said.

More Moslem Filipino rebels surrender

* MANILA, July 26 (R). — Nearly 1,300 Moslem rebels have surrendered to the government since a ceasefire in the southwest Philippines was agreed with the rebel Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) six months ago, the Defence Department said today. In a statement on the situation in the south, where the ceasefire has been broken by occasional clashes, the department said government efforts to bring the area back to normal had led to the surrender of a few dissident groups, including 171 supporters of the Communist underground New People's Army. Yesterday the Southern Commander, Rear Admiral Romulo Espaldon, announced 235 MNLF members from the Moslem rebel stronghold on the Island of Sulu had surrendered. The Defence Department announced today the surrender of 90 more in the Sulu Island group. This brought total surrenders in six months to 1,289.

22 killed in Honduran plane crash

* TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras, July 26 (R). — Twenty-two people were killed and 12 injured when a Honduras air force transport plane crashed yesterday on takeoff from the airport at Yoro, 150 kms. north of here, the air force announced. The air force DC-3 was carrying 33 passengers to Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital. First reports from the crash site, in coffee-growing country, had indicated there were no survivors. The air force said there were 36 people on board, including the three member crew. It did not indicate the fate of the two people not announced for in the toll of dead and injured.

PLO delegation arrives in Manila

* MANILA, July 26 (R). — A three-member delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation headed by Mr. Farouk Kaddoumi, Director General of PLO's Political Department, arrived here today on the fourth leg of an Asian tour, the Foreign Office said. The delegation had earlier visited Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia. The Asian tour is to acquaint countries in the region with the Palestinian viewpoint on the Middle East situation, the Foreign Office said.

Greece, U.S. in joint armed exercises

* ATHENS, July 26 (R). — Greece and the United States have begun three days of joint manoeuvres in the southern Peloponnes, the Defence Ministry announced yesterday. The announcement denied opposition claims that it was part of a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) exercise and said only Greek and American troops were taking part. Greece withdrew from NATO's military wing two years ago following the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

Korean bribes indictments in September

* WASHINGTON, July 26 (R). — Prosecutions resulting from the U.S. government investigation of alleged South Korean influence-buying in Congress may begin in September, a congressional leader said yesterday. Representative Thomas (TIP) O'Neill, speaker of the House, told reporters that senior White House officials had told him the Justice Department would issue indictments in September. A report in the Los Angeles Times, had quoted sources close to Mr. O'Neill as saying five former U.S. congressmen would soon face indictments.